STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method for detection of a variant nephroretinin polypeptide in a subject, comprising:

a) providing a biological sample from a subject, wherein said biological sample comprises a nephroretinin polypeptide; and

b) detecting the presence or absence of a variant nephroretinin polypeptide in said biological sample.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said variant nephroretinin polypeptide is a C-terminal truncation of SEQ ID NO:2.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2, wherein said variant nephroretinin polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOs: 6, 10, 12, 14, 16, and 20.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the presence of said variant nephroretinin polypeptide is indicative of nephronophthisis type 4 kidney disease in said subject.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said biological sample is selected from the group consisting of a blood sample, a tissue sample, a urine sample, and an amniotic fluid sample.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said subject is selected from the group consisting of an embryo, a fetus, a newborn animal, and a young animal.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said animal is a human.

8. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises differential antibody binding.

9-20. (Canceled)

21. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein said differential antibody binding comprises contacting said sample with a first antibody that specifically binds to the C-terminus of said nephroretinin polypeptide and a second antibody that specifically binds to the N-terminus of said nephroretinin polypeptide.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein said detecting comprises a gel free truncation test.